

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1200 19TH STREET, N.W.

SUITE 500

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

(202) 955-9600

NEW YORK, N.Y.

LOS ANGELES, CA.

MIAMI, FL.

CHICAGO, IL.

STAMFORD, CT.

PARSIPPANY, N.J.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

HONG KONG

AFFILIATED OFFICES

NEW DELHI, INDIA

TOKYO, JAPAN

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FACSIMILE

(202) 955-9792

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

JUL - 9 1998

July 9, 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notification of Ex Parte Communications – Petition of the Association
for Local Telecommunications Services (“ALTS”) for a Declaratory
Ruling Establishing Conditions Necessary to Promote the Deployment of
Advanced Telecommunications Capability Under Section 706 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996 – CC Docket No. 98-78

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket please find an original and two copies of letters dated June 24th and 23rd respectively that were sent to Chairman Kennard, Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth and Mr. Kyle D. Dixon on July 9, 1998. Pursuant to the Commission's rules regarding confidential information, the attachment that accompanied the letter to Chairman Kennard is being submitted in a sealed envelope on a confidential basis. See 47 C.F.R. § 0.459. This attachment sets forth proprietary information related to e.spire's future business plans which has not been released to the public. Public disclosure of this information at this time could cause serious competitive harm to e.spire. If the Commission denies e.spire's request for confidentiality, e.spire reserves the right to withdraw the submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 955-9883 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Marieann Zi Machida



June 23, 1998

The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss **e.spire's** position on the current Section 706 proceedings. We value the opportunity to provide your office with information regarding the complex telecommunications industry.

Again, thank you and please do not hesitate to call upon me or my **e.spire** colleagues if we can be of any assistance.

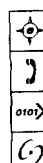
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Reich", written over a horizontal line.

Jack E. Reich
President and Chief Executive Officer

e.spire Communications, Inc.™

133 National Business Parkway, Suite 200
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701
phone 301.361.4200
fax 301.361.4279



www.espire.net



June 23, 1998

Mr. Kyle D. Dixon
Legal Advisor
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Dixon,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the current Section 706 proceedings and e.spire's position on this extremely important issue. e.spire's business success is predicated on the expectation that the Telecom Act will be administered in a fair and equitable manner. Our industry is extremely complex and I appreciate your and Commissioner Powell's interest in exploring all aspects of these complex issues and supporting competition that will result in value to our Country's technology infrastructure.

As you mentioned, we are a short distance from your offices and extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to visit our Network Management Center or our switch site.

I look forward to working with you again in the future and please do not hesitate to call upon us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Reich", written over a horizontal line.

Jack E. Reich
President and Chief Executive Officer

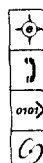
e.spire Communications, Inc.™

133 National Business Parkway, Suite 200
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701

phone 301.361.4200

fax 301.361.4279

www.espire.net





June 24, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

Thank you for taking the time from your schedule to discuss **e.spire's** position regarding the important Section 706 proceedings. We believe that this issue is extremely important to the continued success of the Act to benefit business and residential consumers in the fast growing areas of Internet and data access. Reaching all Americans with these new services will eventually impact the viability of our Nation.

On a personal note, my day at the FCC was enlightening. You and your fellow commissioners face a wide range of complex issues that are typical of the various communications industries. I was taken by the sincere interest of the staff members to learn these difficult issues and try to do the "right thing." It is very valuable to know that the emerging participants in this industry, like **e.spire**, are afforded the opportunity to state our positions.

During our conversation, you emphasized the importance of extended broadband capabilities to residential as well as business markets. I want you to know that we pledge our commitment to explore ways to extend our capabilities to all potential customers in our markets. **e.spire** and similar companies have made significant investments to create the infrastructure that enables these advances and our ability to compete fairly is essential to that continued deployment.

Again, thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to call upon **e.spire** if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack E. Reich", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jack E. Reich
President and Chief Executive Officer

e.spire Communications, Inc.™

133 National Business Parkway, Suite 200
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701

phone 301.361.4200

fax 301.361.4279

